

## Message Text

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41

ACTION EA-09

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NSAE-00 ACDA-05 SAJ-01 /047 W

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P 281017Z AUG 75 ZDK

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2456

DOD WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO CINCPAC PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY

S E C R E T SEOUL 6710

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR MASS KS

SUBJECT: EIGHTH SECURITY CONSULTATIVE MEETING

BEGIN SUMMARY: 8TH ANNUAL SECURITY CONSULTATIVE MEETING HELD AUGUST 26-27, 1975 PROVIDED REAFFIRMATION OF BASIC STRENGTH US/ROK SECURITY RELATIONS. MEETINGS WERE VALUABLE NOT ONLY FOR SECRETARY SCHLESINGER'S STRONG REITERATION OF SECURITY COMMITMENT, BUT FOR FRANK DISCUSSION OF MAJOR SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES. ROK CLEARLY IMPRESSED BY SECRETARY'S PRESENTATION. END SUMMARY.

1. IN TWO DAYS OF MEETINGS AND SOCIAL EVENTS, WHICH INCLUDED CALLS BY SECDEF SCHLESINGER ON PRESIDENT PARK AND PRIME MINISTER KIM, SECRETARY CLEARLY ESTABLISHED CLOSE RAPPORT WITH KOREAN SIDE AND GAVE UNEQUIVOCAL ASSURANCES REGARDING U.S. SECURITY COMMITMENT. SECRETARY RECOGNIZED REMARKABLE ROK GROWTH AND INCREASING SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN SECURITY FIELD, ROKG WILLINGNESS TO INCREASE DEFENSE BUDGET, PRAISED STRONG COHESIVE POLITICAL WILL OF KOREANS TO DEFEND THEIR COUNTRY, AND UNDERSCREED PUBLICLY AS WELL AS IN CLOSED SESSIONS U.S. DETERMINATION IN WAKE OF COMMUNIST TAKEOVER OF INDOCHINA TO FULFILL TREATY COMMITMENTS. CLEARLY IMPRESSED BY SECRETARY'S  
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PRESENTATIONS, MND MINISTER SUH PUBLICLY AND PRIVATELY EXPRESSED WARM THANKS FOR STRONG WORDS OF SUPPORT AND SUCCESSFUL RESULTS OF MEETINGS.

2. MEETINGS THEMSELVES WERE CHARACTERIZED BY FRANK EXCHANGES THAT CAME TO GRIPS WITH CENTRAL SECURITY ISSUES. WHILE TWO SIDES CONTINUED TO HOLD SOMEWHAT DIFFERING VIEWS ON SHORT RANGE INTENT OF DPRK AND SOME TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF THREAT, ROK/US THREAT ASSESSMENTS WERE NOTABLE FOR THEIR GENERAL AGREEMENT ON NORTH KOREAN CAPABILITY, AND AS SECRETARY STATED TO PRESS: DIFFERENCES WILL NOT INTERFERE WITH JOINT EFFORTS TO PREPARE AGAINST ATTACK. SECRETARY'S STRONG WORDS OF SUPPORT FOR ROK WERE GIVEN FURTHER MEANING BY AGREEING TO ROKG PROCUREMENT OF AIRCRAFT (F-5S, AND F-4ES), PRECISION GUIDED MUNITIONS, AND OTHER HARDWARE AND BY FRANK U.S. RECOGNITION OF NEED TO IMPROVE LOGISTICS AND WAR RESERVE STORAGE DEFICIENCIES. SECRETARY ADOPTED QUALIFIED POSITION ON COST AND PRIORITIES IN NEW ROK FORCE IMPROVEMENT PLAN, AND SAID WE WOULD CONSIDER INDIVIDUALLY ROK BLANKET REQUESTS FOR TECHNICAL DATA AND DEFENSE INDUSTRY SUPPORT. WHILE HEARTILY ENDORSING ROK SELF HELP EFFORTS, AND WELCOMING ROK'S NEW FORCE IMPROVEMENT PLAN AS MOVE IN RIGHT DIRECTION, SECRETARY AT SEVERAL POINTS DURING MEETING PROPOSED COMPLEMENTARITY OF US AND ROK FORCES AS GUIDING CONCEPT FOR FUTURE FORCE DEVELOPMENT. HE RECOMMENDED ROK'S ATTACH HIGH PRIORITY TO GROUND COMBAT CAPABILITIES (CAS, ARTILLERY, ARMOR/ANTI ARMOR) NOTING THAT AIR DEFENSE AND SEA CONTROL WERE AREAS U.S. COULD ACCEPT LARGE SHARE OF BURDEN.

3. IN SUM, COMBINATION OF CONVINCING ASSURANCES GIVEN BY SECRETARY AND HEAD ON APPROACH TO MAJOR ISSUES WHICH USEFULLY UNDERScoreD PROGRESS MADE AND POINTED UP QUESTIONS TO BE RESOLVED, EFFECTIVELY CONFIRMED BASIC STRENGTH AND HEALTH OF SECURITY RELATIONSHIP. MND SUH AND OTHER SENIOR ROKG WERE THROUGHOUT VISIBLY BUOYED AND PLEASED BY SCM, CHARACTERIZING MEETNG AS "CORNERSTONE" FOR FUTURE JOINT ROK/US EFFORTS IN SECURITY FIELD.

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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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